Maintenance Grant for National Highways

1056. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of maintenance grant Government releasing per k.m. for national highways;

(b) whether the present grant is adequate; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) is negative whether Government propose to enhance it ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIOAL CHARGE OF THE MI IISTRY OF COMMUNICATICN (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) The requirements of funds for maintenance of National Highways are assessed on the basis of terrain, climate, road condition, traffic intensity and rates per kilometer in different States; but the amounts are released based on the available resources on pro-rata basis. The amount released during the last five years is indicated below:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in Crores)
1985-86	90·00
1986-87	92·88
1987-88	98·62
1988-89	141·56
1989-90	143·[illegible]

(b) Because of the constraint of resources, the present allocation is short of the assessed requirement.

(c) Enhancement of maintenance grant will depend upon availability of resources.

Abolition of death penalty

1057. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for abolition of death penatly in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The death penalty is only an alternative to life imprisonment for a few heinous offences and is awarded in the rarest of rare cases.

C-DOT project

1058. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'C-DOT' project was assigned with the task of building advance telecommunication technology and telephone exchange equipment indigenously ;

(b) if so, to what extent it has achieved its object so far ; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to wind up 'C-DOT' and invite international manufacturers to supply its technologies and equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) C-DOT has been